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INFO ALL NATO CAPITALS 3557

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

USCINCEUR

USNMR SHAPE

USLOSACLANT

CINCLANT

S E C R E T SECTION 1 OF 2 USNATO 6001

E.O. 11652: GDS 12-31-81

TAGS: PFOR, NATO

SUBJ: DPC MINISTERIAL MEETING DECEMBER 7, 1973: AGENDA ITEM VA,
FORCE PLANS FOR THE PERIOD 1974-1978

VIENNA FOR USDEL MBFR; GENEVA FOR USDEL CSCE

SUMMARY. UNDER AGENDA ITEM V. A. OF DECEMBER 7 MINISTERIAL MEETING, MINISTERS NOTED MC ASSESSMENT OF THE 1974-1978 FORCE PLAN (MCM-83-73) AND APPROVED RECOMMENDATIONS IN PARAGRAPH 35 OF REPORT ON FORCE PLANS (DPC/D(73)23 WITH COUNTRY CHAPTERS AND STATISTICAL ANNEX). MINISTERIAL ACTION MEANS THEY ADOPTED ON BEHALF OF THEIR COUNTRIES A FIRM FORCE COMMITMENT FOR 1974 AND A NATO FORCE PLAN FOR 1974-1978. MINISTERIAL APPROVAL OF 1974-1978 FORCE PLAN THUS GIVES DE FACTO APPROVAL TO NEW BELGIAN DEFENSE REFORM PLAN, END SUMMARY.

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1. FOLLWOING INTRODUCTORY REMARKS BY SYG LUNS, CHAIRMAN MC (STEINHOFF) SAID REPORT ON NATO 1974-78 FORCE PLANS PAINTS A FAIRLY BALANCED PICTURE IN THAT IT OUTLINES PLANNED COUNTRY FORCE IMPROVEMENTS WHILE DESCRIBING REMAINING DEFICIENCIES. HE

EMPHASIZED, HOWEVER, THAT OVERALL PROGRESS TOWARD IMPLEMENTING AD-70 RECOMMENDED IMPROVEMENTS AND NATO FORCE GOALS IS FAR FROM SATISFACTORY AND URGED THAT COUNTRIES, AS A MATTER OF URGENCY, REVIEW THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS WITH AIM OF CREATING NEW IMPETUS TOWARD CORRECTING CRITICAL DEFICIENCIES. STEINHOFF STRESSED THAT ANY NEW INITIATIVE SHOULD NOT BE AT THE EXPENSE OF CURRENT AD-70 PRIORITIES AND NATO FORCE GOALS.

2. MINISTER TANASSI (ITALY) CALLED ATTENTION TO ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL PRESSURES THAT HINDER FULL ATTAINMENT OF NATO FORCE GOALS IN ITALY AS WELL AS IN OTHER ALLIANCE COUNTRIES. HE STRESSED THAT DESPITE THESE PRESSURES, ITALY WAS INCREASING ITS DEFENSE BUDGET AND IMPROVING ITS FORCES BY MAKING SACRIFICES IN OTHER SECTORS OF THE ECONOMY. HE FURTHER INDICATED THAT ITALY WAS STUDYING POSSIBILITY OF REDUCING CONSCRIPT PERIOD, BUT EMPHASIZED ANY REDUCTION WOULD BE SUBJECT TO COMPENSATORY MEASURES WHICH WOULD MAINTAIN QUANTITATIVE AND QUALITATIVE FORCE CAPABILITIES. TANASSI PROMISED FULL CONSULTATION WITH NATO PRIOR TO SUBMISSION OF A CONSCRIPTION PLAN TO ITALIAN PARLIAMENT.

3. MINISTER LEBER CONTINUED CONSULTATION WITH NATO ON NEW FORCE STRUCTURE FOR BUNDESWEHR. HE SAID THAT MAJOR OBJECTIVES OF RESTRUCTURING WERE IMPROVED EFFECTIVENESS AND AVAILABILITY OF FORCES WITHIN EXPENDITURE LIMITATIONS. IN THIS REGARD, HE EMPHASIZED THE FOLLOWING:

A. INCREASE IN PERCENTAGE OF FRG DEFENSE BUDGET DEVOTED TO EQUIPMENT MODERNIZATION (FROM LESS THAN 30 PERCENT IN PAST FEW YEARS TO 32 PERCENT IN 1974);

B. ONE-FOR-ONE REPLACEMENT OF 30 THOUSAND PEACETIME PERSONNEL WITH NEWLY CREATED READY RESERVE FORCE, MEMBERS OF WHICH WILL HAVE COMPLETED CONSCRIPTION SERVICE, BE AVAILABLE FOR IMMEDIATE RECALL, BE USED FOR SPECIAL LOGISTIC FUNCTIONS, AND LIVE WITHIN 50 KILOMETERS OF THEIR UNIT ASSIGNMENT;

C. INCREASE, IN LINE WITH NATO REQUIREMENTS, OF COMBAT
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BRIGADES FROM 33 TO 36 (ALL OF WHICH WILL HAVE A COMBAT CAPABILITY AGAINST ARMORED ATTACKS);

D. RETENTION OF 15 MONTH CONSCRIPTION PERIOD.
LEBER CONCLUDED BY STATING THAT RESTRUCTURING WILL NOT PREJUDICE MBFR.

4. MINISTER SANCAR (TURKEY) SAID IN LIGHT OF INCREASING WARSAW PACT CAPABILITIES AND UNSTABLE SITUATION IN MIDDLE EAST, TURKEY WAS DETERMINED TO INCREASE ITS DEFENSE EFFORTS. HE EMPHASIZED THAT MOST SIGNIFICANT TURKISH WEAKNESS WAS LACK OF MODERN EQUIPMENT AND TURKEY HAS PROVIDED SUBSTANTIAL ADDITIONAL FUNDS FOR EQUIPMENT MODERNIZATION. HE INDICATED TURKEY WOULD WELCOME ASSISTANCE WHILE MAKING ITS CURRENT TRANSITION FROM AN EXTERNALLY SUPPORTED DEFENSE PROGRAM TO

MIXTURE OF EXTERNALLY AND NATIONALLY SUPPORTED PROGRAM. SANCAR CONCLUDED BY SAYING ESTABLISHMENT OF EWG SUBGROUP TO EXAMINE WAYS AND MEANS OF STRENGTHENING GREEK AND TURKISH LOCAL FORCES WAS A WELCOME FORWARD STEP TOWARD IDENTIFYING IMPORTANT CRITICAL DEFICIENCIES IN KEY SOUTHERN FLANK.

5. SECRETARY SCHLESINGER MADE BRIEF STATEMENT TAKING NOTE OF STEINHOFF'S (CHAIRMAN MC) CONCERN REGARDING SHORTCOMINGS IN NATO FORCES. SCHLESINGER SAID US CONSIDERS NATO 1974-78 FORCE PLANS A USEFUL STEP FORWARD. SCHLESINGER PRESENTED FOR THE RECORD HIS PREPARED STATEMENT (SEPTEL.

6. VREDELING (NETHERLANDS) SAID WORK ON NEW DEFENSE WHITE PAPER WAS WELL UNDERWAY, BUT PAPER WOULD NOT BE READY BEFORE FIRST QUARTER OF 1974. HE FELT IT WOULD NOT BE USEFUL TO GIVE DETAILS AT THIS TIME. HE SAID GUIDELINES FOR DUTCH DEFENSE POLICY WERE THAT A) PRESENT FORCE LEVELS SHOULD NOT BE REDUCED EXCEPT IN FRAMEWORK OF MBFR AND THAT B) REAL OUTPUT IN COMBAT CAPABILITY SHOULD BE MAINTAINED WITHOUT UNNECESSARY WASTE. VREDELING ADDED THAT NATO SPECIALIZATION STUDY WAS HELPFUL TO SEARCH FOR RATIONALIZATION OF DEFENSE EFFORT AND THANKED CENTRAL REGION ALLIES AND NATO MILITARY AUTHORITIES FOR POSITIVE CONTRIBUTIONS TO SPECIALIZATION STUDY. HE INDICATED REDUCTION IN CONSCRIPTION PERIOD WOULD BE PART OF NEW DEFENSE PLAN AND PROMISED FULL CONSULTATION WITH NATO

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7. LATSOUDIS (GREECE) SAID HIS COUNTRY WAS IN AGREEMENT WITH MC ASSESSMENT OF FORCE PLANS AND NOTED WARSAW PACT WAS INCREASING ITS DEFENSE CAPABILITIES BEYOND LEVEL NEEDED FOR DEFENSE. HE WAS PLEASED THAT COUNTRY CHAPTER RECOGNIZED EFFORT BY GREECE TO FULFILL ITS NATO OBLIGATIONS. HE ADDED THAT MANY DEFICIENCIES REMAINED AND STRESSED IT WAS IMPOSSIBLE TO ELIMINATE ALL OF THEM WITHOUT EXTERNAL HELP. HE EXPRESSED GRATITUDE FOR CREATION OF THE EWG SUB-GROUP TO EXAMINE WAYS AND MEANS FOR IMPROVING GREEK AND TURKISH LOCAL FORCES AND EXPRESSED HOPE SUB-GROUP WOULD PROPOSE PRACTICAL SOLUTIONS TO THE GREEK PROBLEMS. HE CONCLUDED BY EMPHASIZING IMPORTANCE TO THE SOUTHERN FLANK OF TIMELY EXTERNAL REINFORCEMENTS.

8. RICHARDSON (CANADA) EMPHASIZED CANADA'S TOTAL CONTRIBUTION TO THE COMMON DEFENSE EFFORT. HE SAID CANADA CONTRIBUTES TO DEFENSE OF CENTRAL REGION, NORTHERN FLANK, NORTH ATLANTIC AREA AND THE US STRATEGIC FORCES. HE ALSO UNDERLINED CANADA'S
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CONTRIBUTION TO UN PEACEKEEPING FORCES IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND CYPRUS AND SAID THIS WAS BEING DONE WITHOUT ALTERING READINESS OF CANADA'S NATO-COMMITTED FORCES.

9. DA SILVA CUNHA (PORTUGAL) STATED THAT CURRENT CIRCUMSTANCES MADE IT NECESSARY FOR PORTUGAL TO GIVE FIRST PRIORITY TO DEFENSE OF TERRITORIES OUTSIDE OF NATO AREA. HE NOTED SACEUR'S CONCERN OVER PORTUGAL'S CONTRIBUTION TO NATO AND SAID PORTUGAL WILL MAKE EFFORTS TO MEET NATO GOALS.

10. CARRINGTON (UK) MADE SHORT STATEMENT HIGHLIGHTING AIM TO EARMARK ADDITIONAL AIR UNITS TO NATO PREVIOUSLY HELD UNDER NATIONAL COMMAND. HE NOTED UK PROPOSALS TOWARD THIS END ARE BEING STUDIED IN MNC'S; PROPOSALS ENTAIL AN EARMARKING OF SOME ADDITIONAL 200 AIRCRAFT (STRIKE/ATTACK, AIR DEFENSE AND TRANSPORT) AND PROVIDE FOR EARLIER ASSIGNMENT OF STRIKE COMMAND AIRCRAFT.

11. SVART (DANISH PERMREP) SAID DENMARK COULD AGREE TO 1974 COMMITMENT AND NATO 1974-78 FORCE PLAN. HE ADDED MAJORITY OF NEWLY ELECTED PARLIAMENT FAVORED RECENTLY ENACTED DEFENSE ACT. HE STRESSED THAT DENMARK ATTACHES MUCH IMPORTANCE TO ACE MOBILE FORCE AND WAS IMPRESSED BY RECENT EXERCISE HELD ON DANISH TERRITORY.

12. FOSTERVOLL (NORWAY) SAID DEFENSE PLANS UNDER NEW GOVERNMENT WERE SAILING ALONG COURSE WITHOUT ANY SIGNIFICANT CHANGE. HE EMPHASIZED NORWAY'S POSITIVE ATTITUDES TOWARD NATO. IN CONCLUDING, HE SAID A BROADLY BASED COMMISSION TO STUDY DEFENSE WAS TO BE SET UP IN NEAR FUTURE.

13. IN SUMMING UP, SYG LUNS INDICATED MINISTERS HAD NOTED

RESTRUCTURING WITHIN GERMAN BUNDERSWEHR, THE ONGOING DUTCH
DEFENSE REVIEW, AND A POSSIBLE REDUCTION IN THE ITALIAN
CONSCRIPTION PERIOD. RUMSFELD

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